



C4IT Service Center

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Our Organization:

- ★ C3CEN
- ★ OSC
- ★ TISCOM
- ★ ALD
- ★ BOD
- ★ COCO
- ★ FSD
 - ★ ESUs
 - ★ ESDs
 - ★ ESDDs
- ★ WFD

Center Field

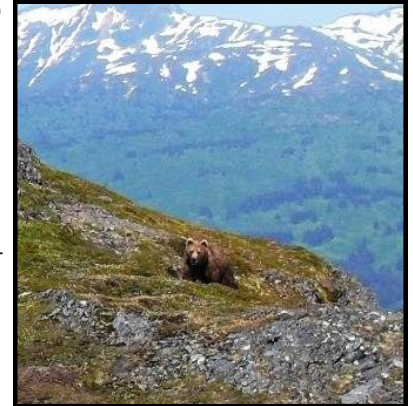
December 2010

Big Brown Bears and Alaska Field Work

ESU Kodiak had a brazen brown bear encounter back in July atop Sharatin Mt. while servicing a National Distress System (NDS) repeater site. The Sharatin Mt. NDS site is a relay/repeater for two important transceiver VHF-FM high sites which cover 100+ NM of navigable Shelikof Strait running between Kodiak Island and the Katmai/Alaska Peninsula region. But this is more about a bear, as admittedly the bear, having given stalk to our NDS maintenance team, made for a much better true story.

On that sunny day back in July, ESU's NDS Kodiak team had completed their work at Sharatin Mt. in preparation for some necessary site upgrades. The team was quietly eating their much deserved sack lunches on this unusually pleasant day while awaiting helo transport back to Kodiak, overlooking infamous Buskin River upcountry, when ETC Henry Yrjana first noticed this bear foraging in the shrubs above tree line but below in elevation some 200yds away. Chief turned to Mr. Dave Sharp, Kodiak's lead tech for the NDS contracted maintenance and response, and to ET3 Marcus Good, and said, "Hey guys, look, a bear. We should make our presence known so he is not later startled by our presence (or something to that effect)." Typically, not a bad idea.

Chief then proceeded to spout out a hearty, "Hey bear, hey bear!", at which point this Kodiak Brown Bear (young male), also known as the Alaskan grizzly, lifted his large head, and began a healthy uphill trot towards the team and with a most intense curiosity about him. Of note, the Kodiak Brown Bear is the largest subspecies of brown bear, at up to 1720 lbs it rivals the polar bear as the largest member of the bear family and as the largest land-based predator in the world.



From NDS Tower, taken with one hand
by Dave Sharp

See Big Brown Bear on next page

Career Retention Screening Panel Completion

On 27 September 2010, the Coast Guard convened its first Career Retention Screening Panel (CRSP) to review the records of 1,181 enlisted personnel over 20 years of active military service to determine suitability for retention on active duty. In response to historically high workforce retention rates, which had the potential to cause an overall workforce imbalance, the Coast Guard implemented CRSP to ensure a consistent workforce flow, and to return A-school, accessions at Cape May and advancement opportunities to adequate levels.

The CRSP considered the military records of all members in pay grades E-6 and below with over 20 years of active military service and those in pay grades E-7 through E-9 with over 20 years of active military service and three or more years in their current pay grades. The CRSP reviewed the records of 1,181 enlisted members against a set of objective criteria established by the Panel membership, and made a recommendation for retention on active duty or involuntary retirement. Upon completion of their deliberations, the CRSP submitted their report recommending 804 CRSP candidates be retained on active duty and 377 CRSP candidates to be involuntarily retired. The Commandant approved the CRSP report and the Panel's recommendations on 27 October 2010. The chain of command has personally notified every candidate selected for involuntary retirement. In addition, those members selected for retention and continued service will be notified via separate correspondence.

Members not retained on active duty because of CRSP will be involuntarily retired with retirement dates between 01 September 2011 and 01 December 2011. They will receive all military

See Career Retention on next page

Since there are no communication or generator huts at this relay site, the now spry NDS team had but one option as they grabbed their essentials (a .44 cal hand gun, climbing harnesses and a sat phone), to haul up the tower. Once in the tower, the team caught their breath and waited anxiously for over 10 minutes for the bear to reappear somewhere near where they had been sitting. But this didn't happen. 15 minutes elapsed and they began to presume the bear had lost interest. Jokingly, Chief said, still full of wisdom, "Wouldn't it be funny if he showed up behind us?" Well, no sooner had he said this, all three men turned around to observe the bear, "Poking his head over the top," said Dave, who then fired off his camera with his one free hand to capture this photo of their new friend. The curious bear had circled up and around the team and had surfaced above and behind where they had been sitting. After a few minutes the bear lost interest and wandered out of sight, but how far? Dave's next move was to call Tom (USCG retired), the only commercial Kodiak helo pilot on the Kodiak rock, who had been expecting their call. Upon hearing the word the team had "a little visitor," Tom exclaimed, "I'll be right up!" The team only had to cling for life another 15 - 20 minutes while waiting. Fortunate for them this site is one of the closest to an Alaskan airport, and the weather was oddly cooperative this day, as you can see. The bear wasn't seen again. Many readers may find the following statement odd, but such experiences are why many techs return to Alaska for a second or third tour. And understandably at the same time, this is also the type of experience, not all that uncommon in AK, that enables many others of different mindset, to pass on assignment opportunities in AK altogether, and that's OK too. Regardless, we hope you enjoyed this little piece of experience from our neck of the woods.

By Lane Johnson, CDR, CO, ESU Kodiak



Sharatin Mt NDS Repeater Site, Aerial Photo, by Lane Johnson

Career Retention continued from page 1

retirement benefits commensurate with their active military service. The Coast Guard is committed to ensuring we provide those members being involuntarily retired with the utmost personal assistance in their transition to retirement.

Presently, an enlisted member is able to enlist on an indefinite enlistment from 10 years time in service until 30 years time in service without regard to performance. The CRSP, a performance-based enlisted workforce management tool, provides the Coast Guard the ability to actively manage our enlisted workforce. In 2011 and 2012, the CRSP will create over 1,000 advancements, increase A school throughput and return accession figures at TRACEN Cape May to near normal levels.

Greetings from the C4IT SC CMC

I recently had the opportunity to attend the fall DC area Chiefs Call To Indoctrination (CCTI). The event was capped off by the Chief's Acceptance Dinner at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club. The dinner was attended by many distinguished guests, such as the MCPOCG Mike Leavitt, MPOCGR Mark Allen, and the entire C4IT SC Command Cadre.

I want to recognize three of our very own new Chiefs from the C4IT SC in the DC area:

- **SKC Phadra Hooker** from the Asset Logistics Division (ALD), Alexandria, VA
- **ETC Stephen Pearson** from the C3CEN detachment in Alexandria, VA
- **FSC Brittney White** of TISCOM, Alexandria, VA



You should realize that these three Chiefs are not our only new Chiefs to go through CCTI this fall, they do however represent the strong bond all Chiefs have towards CCTI regardless of the command they are a part of in a geographical area.

While I can not divulge all the details of what actually goes on during the course of CCTI, I can tell you two themes that resonate strongly during the process. First, indoctrinating our new Chiefs to the Chief's Mess and secondly, formally recognizing our new Chiefs on achieving such a momentous milestone in their careers in front of their families, close friends, and fellow Chiefs. As a member who has been a chief for two decades I have attended plenty of CCTIs and Acceptance Dinners. During the process over the years I have heard one or two Perspective Chief Petty Officer (PCPO) tell me "I am really busy and don't think I have time for CCTI." If you know me well, then you know that doesn't sit very well with me. CCTI isn't just for our new PCPOs, as it is about honoring our professions, military customs, history, and most importantly our family and friends. A PCPO who feels they are too busy is missing the point. Becoming the Chief has everything to do with learning your role within the Chief's Mess, the Command, and finally the transition from technician to leader.

Finally, I can't stress enough how proud Mr. Powell, Capt Macaluso, and I are of all our newly indoctrinated Chiefs, and all of our not so new Chiefs who support the entire CCTI process.

*MCPO Daryl Bletso
C4IT SC Command Master Chief*



ESU Kodiak Wins

the B Division, the Toughest Division, in the 2009-2010 USCG Kodiak Area Captain's Cup

ESU Kodiak has a great reputation for its technical skills, customer service, community outreach, and fish fry's across Alaska, at least that's the rumor. In fact, Actor Gary Sinise of *CSI: NY*, *Apollo 13*, and *Forest Gump* fame recently paid the ESU a visit to validate at least one of those rumors during ESU's annual Silver Salmon Derby, post derby fish fry. Actor Sinise honored the derby winner, IT3 Jon Kelsey, who pulled in a 32 incher from the Buskin River, narrowly beating out ET1 Joe "Pop-a-Top" Lee, by 1/16 an inch. Actor Sinise and his *LT Dan Band* were on loan to the Kodiak Commands and their dependents for an evening of entertainment this fall, courtesy the USO.

Back to the 'reputation' theme, ESU Kodiak can now include movie star hosting, and more to the point, elite athleticism, to their repertoire. ESU Kodiak won the B Division in the Kodiak Captain's Cup challenge for the 2009-2010 season, concluding over Kodiak's 2010 Coast Day celebrations. The Captain's Cup is a year-long competition amongst 16 Coast Guard and Navy units, military and civilian, aka "Team Kodiak", and their dependents. The Captain's Cup challenge comprises over 20 athletic events.

ESU Kodiak, led by Commanding Officer CDR Lane D. Johnson, and crew of ~30 in Kodiak proper, won their division over arch rival COMMSTA Kodiak, and placed second overall just behind

Base Support Unit Kodiak of the A Division, with over 150 personnel, and ahead of AIRSTA Kodiak, home to over 300 personnel, also of the A Division. The rivalry between the ESU and the COMMSTA is longstanding with a rather natural element on the professional side as the units work closely with one another from day to day. The Commanding Officers (CDR's Johnson and Van Ness) embrace rivalry and seem to enjoy kicking it up a notch with friendly public sparing and their mutual interests to inspire competitive, team-oriented events amongst their crews.

The Captain's Cup challenge, run by PSSU Kodiak's MWR program, is strongly supported by all CO's, OinC's, and Detachment Supervisors of Team Kodiak. It plays an integral role in cross-unit cohesion, competitive spirit building, health and fitness, balancing of work-life, and promoting workforce well-being to help spirits remain right-side up when the sun goes down hard for the winter, and the weather goes south and sour before the lower 48 see the leaves on the ground. A special "thank you" from Team Kodiak goes out to Ms. Rachel Dyer, MWR Athletic Coordinator, for her extraordinary compassion in orchestrating the Captain's Cup events.

By "C.J." Hurd (IT1)



Actor Gary Sinise with ESU Kodiak, Second from Left, Middle Row
(Photo by IT2 Cole, ESU Kodiak)



ESU/ESD Kodiak Crew - Sep 2010
(photograph by Mr. Chad Burnside, ESU Kodiak)





Baltimore PSC Recognition

Pictured above are the Office Of Civilian Personnel and are located in the Northeast Human Resource Center in Baltimore. From left to Right: Jerry Davis, Paula Cross, Debbie Gill and Tina Berry. During the Loran Support Unit closure the HR staff made several trips to New Jersey to give reduction in force briefings, counsel employees on retirement and placement rights and answer employee questions. All of the LSU permanent employees were placed and are working for the Coast Guard.

Diversity is Strength!

TISCOM hosts 2nd Annual "Taste of the World"

On October 14th 2010, TISCOM hosted the second annual "Taste of the World," an event to celebrate cultural diversity in the Coast Guard.

The purpose of this event is to recognize and celebrate the diversity found within our Service. The Coast Guard depends on the strength of its workforce to accomplish its enormous mission responsibilities. Members of the CG must work together every day to accomplish common mission objectives; yet we're all different people. A climate that recognizes and values individuality is essential in continuing to attract and retain a highly motivated and capable workforce. Embracing our individuality to leverage our collective strength is an important key to success.

The highlight of this event were booths sponsored by Coast Guard volunteers representing different regions or countries around the world. By displaying cultural information; offering food samples; and in many cases dressing in costume; these volunteers educated participants about the culture that they were representing. Cultures of Pakistan, Mexico, Lebanon, West Indies, Vietnam, Canada/France, Ireland, Holland, Puerto Rico, Southwest United States, American Indians and Italy were all showcased.

This base-wide celebration also featured four eclectic performances, including salsa dancing, a member of the Coast Guard bag pipe band, a traditional Hula dancer and African percussion and dance performers. CDR William Makell, who serves as the Ethnic Policy Advisor to the Commandant in the Office of Diver-



sity at Coast Guard Headquarters, was the featured speaker. He was joined on the stage by CDR Pedro Jimenez, from the Civil Rights Directorate. TISCOM's IT1 Robles' daughter sang an unaccompanied and inspiring rendition of the National Anthem. In addition to supporting the event's opening with a four-person Color Guard, the Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard joined in all of the festivities. Guests included CAPT Leonard Ritter, CG TISCOM Commander, CAPT Marshall Lytle, Deputy Assistant Commandant for C4IT (CG-6D), CAPT Frank Parker, NAVCEN Commanding Officer and CAPT George Stephanos, Project Officer for relocation of Coast Guard Headquarters to St. Elizabeth's West Campus and former TISCOM Executive Officer.

TISCOM continued

This event was widely attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The interactive nature of this event demonstrated a sincere resolve by volunteers and attendees to recognize, better understand, and more fully appreciate each others' unique cultures. This year, the team representing Puerto Rico won the now coveted "Taste of the World" trophy. Planning has already started for next year. If you're interested in being a part of this annual celebration, or maybe interested in using this format for your own command's diversity celebration, please contact Ms. Hala Ayala, TISCOM's lead coordinator for "Taste of the World."

TISCOM Lobsterfest 2010

The Telecommunications and Information Systems Command (TISCOM) held its 13th successful Lobsterfest on September 9, 2010. It was a hot sunny day; however the Camp Grounds at TISCOM kept the crowd well shaded. Approximately 500 people enjoyed Maine lobster, hamburgers, hot dogs, soft shell clams, muscles, corn, and cold beverages. Keith Whelpley, a retired Chief, who is now a GS, was able to use his Maine connections to have the lobsters shipped down the morning of the Lobsterfest, as he does every year. There were t-shirts, a 50/50 game of chance, and prizes at this event. The PIE (Partnership in Education) program had chosen Mount Eagle School to be the recipient for the donation of the 50/50 game of chance. Retired ETCM Dave Belisle won the 50/50 game of chance and decided to donate his half towards the Mount Eagle School fund for sports equipment, which was very thoughtful and generous of him. A total of \$796 was raised for the Mount Eagle School. The CPOA (Chief Petty Officers Association) Alexandria Chapter, which donates money and time to the local community, assists members of the command and hardships, and puts on morale events for the command, raised a total of \$3,544. Tickets are sold well in advance of this superb event that is held every year at TISCOM, in Alexandria, Virginia.



Lobsterfest on September 9, 2010

TISCOM HAS CLOSE FINISH IN FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



Ft. BELVOIR — November 29, 2010 — With no defeats yet on the books, the flag football team from TISCOM played on the muddy field at Fort Belvoir. It was a close game, and Dewitt's MEDDAC team eventually pulled through in the final game. With key players missing due to mission requirements, injuries and leave, the game was kept close. Two late game turnovers cost TISCOM the tournament.

Not all of the players were able to attend the awards ceremony, however TISCOM received individual trophies, a trophy for best record in the league and a trophy for first runner up.

-BDW



Center Field

DIRECTOR
C4IT SERVICE CENTER
US COAST GUARD
7323 TELEGRAPH ROAD
STOP 7340
ALEXANDRIA VA 20598-7340

Ms. Genova Clemons,
Organizer
Genova.A.Clemons@uscg.mil
(703) 313-5542

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"C4IT Service Center"



Newsletter Information

Please submit articles, pictures and story ideas to the editor to be considered for future issues. Your feedback is appreciated!

We are especially interested in:

- ★ Important individual contributions.
- ★ Unit accomplishments.
- ★ Unit missions.
- ★ Community involvement.
- ★ Explanations of people-oriented programs.
- ★ Leadership
- ★ Equal opportunity and human relations.

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